

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OES-06 L-03 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PFOR, BU, TGEN

SUBJECT: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT: PROGRAM DOCUMENT

REF: A. SOFIA 1560 B. SOFIA 1241 C. STATE 147863 D. SOFIA 1452

E. SOFIA A-27 F. STATE A-3284

1. SUBSEQUENT TO SENDING REF A, WE RECEIVED FROM EUR/EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS MEMORANDUM AND DRAFT PROGRAM PREPARED IN CU/EE. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REF B, PARA 5, PURPOSE OF COMPLETING PROGRAM DOCUMENT PRIOR TO SIGNING THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT IS TO "MAKE SURE THAT THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE BROADER DOCUMENT WILL REALLY BE APPLIED IN PRACTICE." DEPT AGREED WITH THIS VIEW (REF C, PARA 3). THE DRAFT WE RECEIVED DOES NOT YET DO THIS.

2. ESSENTIALLY THE CU/EE DRAFT IS IN ITSELF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND THUS DOES NOT ADD THE NECESSARY FLESH TO SKELETON OF CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT BY SETTING FORTH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT. GIVEN OUR EXPERIENCE HERE, WE CAN EXPECT THAT GOB WILL DO ITS BEST TO "PACK" THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE OF THE PROGRAM, AND TO HOLD EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN CULTURE TO A BARE MINIMUM. IT THUS IS MOST IMPORTANT TO OUR PURPOSES HERE TO ADD AS MUCH SPECIFICITY AS WE CAN FOR SOME ACTIVITIES: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, AMERICAN SPECIALISTS, VOLUNTARY SPEAKERS, ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, CONFIDENTIAL

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EXHIBITS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS.

3. THIS CAN BE DONE BY SETTING NON-BINDING "FLOOR LEVELS" FOR THESE ACTIVITIES THROUGH LANGUAGE SUCH AS "U.S. SIDE EXPRESSES INTENTION TO OFFER AND BULGARIAN SIDE EXPRESSES INTENTION TO ACCEPT...." MANY OF THESE FLOOR LEVELS ARE ALREADY SET, IN EFFECT, FOR 1976-77 PROGRAM YEAR: SEVEN IV GRANTS (REF D), ONE MAJOR U.S. CULTURAL PRESENTATION (LAPO), ONE MAJOR EXHIBIT EACH WAY ("REFLECTIONS" AND THRACIAN ART), ETC. BUT PRINCIPLE OF SPECIFICITY IS ONE WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE BUILT INTO PROGRAM DOCUMENTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

4. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT FACTOR PREVENTING EVEN SMALL AMOUNT OF SPECIFICITY IS THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY IT WILL HAVE AVAILABLE TO SPEND ON BULGARIAN EXCHANGES. WE HOPE HOWEVER THAT AT LEAST SOME FUNDS CAN BE EARMARKED, AGAINST WHICH "FLOOR" LEVELS CAN BE COSTED OUT. IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE (PARTICULARLY ON U.S. SIDE), THERE WOULD BE NOTHING TO PREVENT INCREASES, E.G., ADDITIONAL IV INVITATIONS.

5. WE PARTICULARLY NOTE THAT CU/EE'S DRAFT, WHILE PRESENTED AS OVER-ALL "CU CONTRIBUTION," CONTAINS NO INPUT FROM CU/ARTS. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE (REF E), SMALLER BUT MORE FREQUENT AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS CAN MAKE IMPORTANT INPUT TO ACHIEVING U.S. INTERESTS IN BULGARIA. DEPT IN REF F ENCOURAGED US TO MAKE USE OF PERFORMERS TOURING PRIVATELY IN EUROPE. TO PERMIT PLANNING FOR THIS, BOTH WE AND BULGARIANS NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST SOMETHING IN THIS CATEGORY SPELLED OUT IN PROGRAM DOCUMENT. AND WE WILL NEED AT LEAST MODEST AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO COVER INTRA-EUROPEAN TRAVEL.

6 WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THERE WOULD BE FURTHER FLESHING OUT IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL: SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA, SPORTS DELEGATION, AMERICAN FILM WEEK, ETC. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ITEMS TAKE MONEY, AND MUCH TIME AND EFFORT TO ARRANGE. WE UNDERSTAND AS WELL THAT BULGARIA

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RANKS COMPARATIVELY LOW ON CU/EE'S PRIORITY LIST AND DO NOT EXPECT VERY MUCH, JUST A BEGINNING. FOR FIRST TIME WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AT LEAST MODEST OPENING FOR AMERICAN THOUGHT AND CULTURE IN ONE OF THE MOST CLOSED OF COMMUNIST SOCIETIES. ESPECIALLY AFTER HELSINKI IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF WE DID NOT USE WHAT LIMITED LEEWAY WE CAN GAIN TO ATTAIN BASKET III DESIDERATA. ONLY MODEST INCREASE IN FUNDING IS REQUIRED.

7. FINALLY, ON TECHNICAL SIDE, WE MUST POINT OUT THAT FOR NON-ACADEMIC EXCHANGES PRINCIPLE OF THE "SENDING SIDE PAYS ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION" WOULD BE STEP BACKWARD. AT PRESENT WE PAY TRANSATLANTIC AIR FARE FOR IVS, WITH GOB PICKING UP INTRA-EUROPEAN AIRFARES. ALTHOUGH WE MIGHT WANT TO PROPOSE CHANGE IN FUTURE YEARS, WE SHOULD MAINTAIN THIS PATTERN FOR PRESENT. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD ELIMINATE OUR ABILITY TO INVITE DIRECTLY PEOPLE LIKE KAMOVA OR SHOPOV, BECAUSE GOB DOUBTLESS WILL NOT PAY FULL INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FOR THOSE WHOM THEY HAVE NOT PRESELECTED. AND WHILE WE SHOULD PRESS BULGARIANS TO PAY LOCAL COSTS FOR AMSPECS/VOLSPKRS, WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THIS POINT TO BECOME BULGARIAN REASON TO DECLINE THEIR SERVICES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SUBMIT, BY AUGUST 20 IF POSSIBLE, FLESHED-OUT PROGRAM DOCUMENT SUITABLE FOR TABLING WITH GOB.
HERZ

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